

### From the Secretary

Every Legislative session starts with anxiety about the budget. This year was no different. But the fiscal year 2014 Budget, as introduced by Governor Tomblin, does not include the expected cut in Grants to Public Libraries (GIA). Other lines in the Library Commission budget were cut but **Grants to Public Libraries remains at \$5.00 per capita**. This verifies the Governor's commitment to the role and value of public libraries. I hope library directors, trustees, staff and friends of public libraries tell the Governor what this means in each of the 175 communities across the state that have public library facilities. In 51 of the 97 public library systems, state GIA accounts for more than 40% of operating income.

However, anxiety remains. The Legislature works on the budget all through the session before voting on the final version. State agencies make presentations before the House and Senate Finance Committees showing how state funds have been spent and what difference those funds make for West Virginians. The Library Commission is scheduled to appear before the Senate Finance Committee on March 7th and before the combined House Finance and Education Committees on March 14. Your visits with Legislators, at home and in Charleston, are part of the process. If Legislators do not hear from *their* constituents that \$5.00 per capita is crucial to *their* libraries, and that *their* libraries are providing services for lifelong learning, job development, and civic engagement, they may conclude it is not important.

The recent ruling of the West Virginia Supreme Court in a lawsuit filed by the Kanawha County Board of Education against the Kanawha County Public Library adds enormous anxiety in the library community. It is imperative that every director and trustee understands the implications of this ruling both locally and statewide. It is imperative that every director and trustee is prepared to explain these implications to legislators and funders.

Senator Rockefeller recently provided you with more support. In a short video released last week, [Protecting Our Public Libraries](#), he refers to libraries as "invaluable resources" and "important lifelines." He has long been a champion of public libraries and the timing of this video could not have been better. It is playing on a flat screen in the Library Commission Reading Room. Please consider adding a link to it on your website.



Karen Goff, Secretary

## ***Futureproof Your Library, Bridgeport PL, March 12, 2013***

The Bridgeport Public Library and the West Virginia Library Commission (WVLC) are pleased to offer a free “Futureproofing Your Library” webinar on March 12, 2013 from 1:30-2:30. “Futureproofing” is an approach to library work that allows you to preserve and express traditional library principles using modern tools and techniques. The goal is to update operations without abandoning library values or library users, creating a work environment that honors the achievements of the past while building capacity for the future. Done well, futureproofing enables you to reconnect with your own sense of excitement, energy, and most important, optimism. The training session has been pre-approved for one hour of WVLC continuing education credit. Seating is limited. To register for the free webinar, please contact Crystal Hamrick ([chamrick@bridgeportwv.com](mailto:chamrick@bridgeportwv.com), 304-842-8248) at the Bridgeport Public Library.



## **WVLC Scholarships for the 2013 ARSL Annual Conference**

The West Virginia Library Commission is pleased to announce scholarships to send West Virginia public library personnel to the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Annual Conference, September 25-28, 2013, in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Library Commission will award two \$1,000 scholarships to help library personnel attend the ARSL conference. Awardees must represent a West Virginia public library serving a population of 10,000 or less. Funds may be used toward registration, travel, hotel, and meals. For more information about the ARSL Conference in Omaha, please see the conference website, <http://arsl.info/category/conference2>.



To apply, submit a letter of application with your name, title, address, contact email, contact telephone number, name of the employing library, and a detailed explanation of how attending this conference will benefit your library/community to:

John Paul Myrick, Library Development Director  
West Virginia Library Commission  
Culture Center, 1900 Kanawha Boulevard  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305  
ATTN: ARSL SCHOLARSHIP

Also provide a note from your director (or for directors, from the board chair) approving your application for funds.

Libraries will be responsible for initial, up-front costs and any costs over and above those covered by the scholarship. Any funding will be awarded to the employing public library on a reimbursement basis up to the amount of the scholarship. Copies of receipts and completion of other required paperwork will be necessary for reimbursement. Previous WVLC ARSL Scholarship winners are ineligible to apply. Awardees will be required to submit a review detailing their conference experiences to the Library Commission for publication after the conference and/or participate in a future WVLA or other public program on the benefits of the conference. CE credit will be awarded to WV public library personnel up to the maximum allowable for attending this event. Reservations and any other prior arrangements are the responsibility of the awardee or the library.

**The application deadline is April 30.** Winners will be announced by June 30, pending the availability of federal funds.

# Martinsburg-Berkeley County Library Awarded Literacy Grant

The *Martinsburg Journal* reports that the Martinsburg-Berkeley County Public Library has been awarded an American Dream Starts @ Your Library grant. “The grant's objective is to increase literacy in adult English language learners and help build a library's print and digital English as a Second Language collection,” according to The *Journal*. The library received \$15,000, the maximum possible allotment. The library will use the funds to “purchase 15 computers, work stations and language software that will accompany the library's current language program, Mango Languages. Mango Languages offers tutoring for non-English speakers of 15 foreign languages and offers 49 languages for native English speakers.” To learn more, visit: [www.journal-news.net/page/content.detail/id/591229.html#license-591229](http://www.journal-news.net/page/content.detail/id/591229.html#license-591229) and [www.americandreamtoolkit.org](http://www.americandreamtoolkit.org).



## Money Smart Week @Your Library, April 20 – 27, 2013

Mark your calendars to participate April 20-27, 2013 in *Money Smart Week @ Your Library*, a national initiative to promote personal financial literacy sponsored by the America Library Association and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. Participating libraries are encouraged to partner with community groups, financial institutions, government agencies, educational organizations and other financial experts.



Money Smart Week® @Your Library is the perfect time to promote your library as a necessity for the economic wellbeing of your community by holding programs and activities for all ages. Public libraries are encouraged to offer free educational seminars during this week. Note these suggested topics:

- Document Destruction and a “Shred Fest”
- Retirement Planning
- Smart Investments, see <http://smartinvesting.ala.org>
- Financial Recordkeeping
- Money Saving Travel Tips – presented by a travel agent or an AAA representative
- Coupon Tips for Moms while story time uses a book such as *Just Saving My Money* by Mercer Meyer
- Teen programs can be fun: manicures using green nail polish; make duct tape wallets
- Home Energy Evaluations
- Saving Money with Simple Car Repairs
- Finding a Job & Writing a Resume with Job & Career Accelerator found at [www.wvinfo depot.org](http://www.wvinfo depot.org).
- Study for teaching, nursing, plumbing, CDL certification, and Personal Financial Skills with LearningExpressLibrary found at [www.wvinfo depot.org](http://www.wvinfo depot.org).

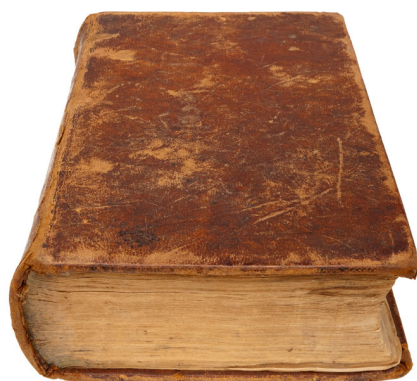
Learn more about Money Smart Week® @Your Library at [www.chicagofed.org/webpages/education/msw/ala/resources.cfm](http://www.chicagofed.org/webpages/education/msw/ala/resources.cfm). You will find [nine pages of resources and programming ideas](#) at the website as well.

## We the People: The Constitution in Our Lives, a Video Contest for Young Patrons

The West Virginia State Bar and the West Virginia Department of Education have partnered to offer West Virginia students the chance to win as much as \$500 for creating a 3-minute video on "We the People: The Constitution in Our Lives" to be placed on YouTube. The second place finishers win \$250. The contest, which is open to West Virginia public school students in grades 6 through 12, gives participants the chance to create a video about what role the Constitution plays in daily life. Judging will be broken into high school and middle school levels. The creators of the first place videos also will be invited to attend The West Virginia State Bar's Annual Meeting on May 10 at Stonewall Jackson Resort. Videos will be judged based on originality, creativity, adherence to the theme and overall quality. Entries must include a parental permission form for those under the age of 18. Submissions will be accepted from February 15 to March 31. For more information, contact Mike Frazier at the West Virginia State Bar at (304) 697-4370 or at [wmfrazier@ntelos.net](mailto:wmfrazier@ntelos.net).



## Fundamentals of Preservation Web Course, March 25-April 19



The Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) is offering a web course on the fundamentals of preservation, March 25 - April 19, 2013. The four-week online course introduces participants to the principles, policies and practices of preservation in libraries and archives. The course is designed to inform all staff across divisions and departments and at all levels of responsibility; it also provides tools to begin extending the useful life of library collections. Note that registration is \$109 for ALCTS members and \$129 non-members. Visit [www.ala.org/alcts/confevents/upcoming/webcourse/fpres/ol\\_temp1](http://www.ala.org/alcts/confevents/upcoming/webcourse/fpres/ol_temp1) for information. Call 1-800-545-2433 and press 5 or email [registration@ala.org](mailto:registration@ala.org) for questions about registration. For all other questions contact Julie Reese, ALCTS Events Manager at 1-800-545-2433, ext. 5034 or [alctsce@ala.org](mailto:alctsce@ala.org).

## EveryoneOn Will Promote Digital Literacy

A three-year national public service campaign called EveryoneOne will launch to promote digital literacy this spring. The campaign will encourage people who are limited or non-Internet users, to learn how to do "one thing better online." Connect2Compete, the organization leading the campaign, offers information on the project: [www.connect2compete.org/content/everyoneon-library-materials](http://www.connect2compete.org/content/everyoneon-library-materials). Library Lookout will provide more details as the campaign continues to evolve.





## March 15 Deadline for Ezra Jack Keats Mini-grants

The Ezra Jack Keats Mini-grant Program for Public Libraries gives \$500 for projects that foster creative expression, working together and interaction with a diverse community. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2013. For more information or to apply visit the website: [www.ezra-jack-keats.org/minigrant-program](http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/minigrant-program).

## Citizens-Save-Libraries Grants Will Target 20 Threatened Communities for Advocacy Training

United for Libraries has secured \$75,000 from the Neal-Schuman Foundation to support library advocacy at the local level for libraries with troubled budgets. The Citizens-Save-Libraries grants will send expert advocates to 20 locations over the course of two years to help friends-of-the-library groups, library directors and trustees develop individual blueprints for advocacy campaigns to restore, increase or save threatened library budgets. For more information, including deadlines, visit [www.ala.org/united/grants\\_awards/neal-schuman](http://www.ala.org/united/grants_awards/neal-schuman).

## Notable Certificates and Webinars

1. The **Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science** is now accepting applications for the second cohort in the post-master's certificate program in Digital Stewardship. The Digital Stewardship Certificate (DSC) is a fully online, five-course, post-master's program that imparts the concepts and skills needed to create and manage a sustainable digital repository, library or archive. The first course, Digital Stewardship, will be taught in Summer 2013. For more details about the program or to apply, please visit [www.simmons.edu/dsc](http://www.simmons.edu/dsc).
2. The **Association for Library Service to Children** is offering a number of webinars through May, 2013. For more information visit [www.ala.org/alsc/edcareers/profdevelopment/alscweb/webinars](http://www.ala.org/alsc/edcareers/profdevelopment/alscweb/webinars).

## From Our Library to Yours

By Heather Campbell-Shock

The West Virginia Library Commission has an extensive library science collection that libraries in the state may interlibrary loan. Here are some of our newest titles:

***Audiobooks for youth: a practical guide to sound literature*** by Mary Burkey.

Burkey, a Columbus, Ohio teacher, traces the history of talking books from The Bubble Book series which debuted in 1917. She discusses the content of these spoken narratives of the written word, their role in building literacy, production, how to develop and maintain an audiobook collection that meets users needs, and the digital future (if any) of this medium. The guide includes reflections by others working in this field, a lexicon, and recommended reading, but not recommendations for specific audiobooks. ISBN: 9780838911570. Call number: 025.2 BURK.



**Reading women: a book club guide for women's fiction** by Nanci Milone Hill

From Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* to *Hot and Bothered* by Annie Downey, this reference provides info on 114 women's fiction titles published within the last 15 years (most within the last 10 years), encompassing mainstream women's fiction, romance, and chick lit.

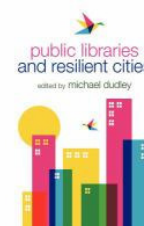
ISBN: 9781591588023. Call number: 016.813 HILL.



**Public Libraries and resilient cities** edited by Michael Dudley.

Public libraries are keystone public institutions for any thriving community, and as such can be leaders in making cities better places to work, play, and live. In this important book, noted urban planner and librarian Dudley shows how public libraries can contribute to “placemaking,” or the creation and nurturing of vital and unique communities for their residents. ISBN: 9780838911365.

Call number: 021.2 PUBL



## Summers County Public Library Bookmobile Keeps Rolling

The Summers County Public Library Bookmobile began service in June, 2012 and immediately became a mobile staging point for the library's Summer Reading Program. The bookmobile hosted 24 weekly story times at various places around the county, including Greenbrier Terrace, Hedrick House, Pipestem State Park and the Sandstone Visitors Center. Altogether, 305 children – twice the number reached in 2011 – attended the story hours held on the bookmobile.

In 2012 the bookmobile added stops at Jumping Branch and Talcott Elementary schools. The bookmobile visits these schools once every two weeks for three hours at each location. According to the Assistant Librarian Deya Terrafranca, “We see more students in those three hours than we see patrons in the library in a whole day.” Faculty and students have received the project enthusiastically. “Sometimes I have students that need a little more time to master a concept,” said one Jumping Branch teacher. “I can tell the rest of the students, ‘Get out your library books and read.’ I can then spend 15 uninterrupted minutes of instruction with those few students.”

On alternative weeks, the bookmobile serves the general public. Adult reception has been as positive as that of the schools, with enthusiastic patrons standing in the rain and cold, waiting for the bookmobile. According to Terrafranca, “One highlight from this fall was making a library card for a 98-year-old woman currently living at Summers Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.”



At the Water Festival Parade, Hinton, WV



Young patron on board

# Supreme Court Ruling Impacts WV Library Funding

By John Paul Myrick, Director of Library Development, and Karen Goff, Executive Secretary

On February 22nd the West Virginia Supreme Court ruled against the Kanawha County Public Library in a lawsuit filed by the Kanawha County Board of Education. The Board of Education had sued the library because it had been required by a 1957 law to provide funding from its excess levy to the library. This funding, roughly \$3 million, accounted for roughly 40% of KCPL's operating budget. The Supreme Court ruled that the law was "unconstitutional and unenforceable" in that it was directed toward one particular school system (Kanawha), and not all school systems, creating an unequal method of funding education in Kanawha and other counties with special library laws.



Libraries in ten counties are funded by the Boards of Education due to specific, special laws, and could be subject to losses of funding from their school systems. Many others are provided funds by their Boards of Education, but no specific law exists requiring such funding as it did in Kanawha, Wood, Harrison, Cabell, Ohio and other counties.

The Kanawha County Board met on February 26th to discuss potential future options should funding from the Board of Education cease. These include closure of some libraries, reductions in programs and services and potential layoffs.

It is likely that measures will be introduced in the West Virginia Legislature to address this issue. Joint Resolutions have been introduced in both the Senate (SJR 7) and the House (HJR 29) proposing a Constitutional amendment that, if passed, would result in a simple majority requirement to pass all excess levies for non-education levies.

The complete [brief detailing the Court's findings can be found online](#).

## Library Lookout

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